

HUGO L. BLACK LECTURE

THE FATE OF FREE SPEECH IN THE TRUMP ERA

A CONVERSATION WITH EMILY BAZELON AND KHALILAH L. BROWN-DEAN

In the aftermath of a contentious presidential election and declining trust in public institutions, the proliferation of conspiracy theories and misinformation poses a threat to democracy. Emily Bazelon offers a timely and provocative approach for understanding both the promise and challenge of unfettered free speech.

MONDAY, MARCH 31, 2025

4:30 P.M.

**BECKHAM HALL, FAYERWEATHER
55 WYLLYS AVE**

Presented by

**The Allbritton Center for the Study of Public Life
Moderated by Dean Mary-Jane Rubenstein**

RECEPTION FOLLOWING THE EVENT AT 6 P.M.

The event will also be broadcast via Zoom.



The Hugo Black Lecture on Freedom of Expression is designed to bring to the Wesleyan Campus, public figures and scholars with experience and expertise in matters related to the First Amendment and freedom of expression. This lecture is endowed by Leonard S. Halpert '44 (1922–2017), who believed that the First Amendment to the US Constitution is the basis upon which we enjoy all other Civil Rights. This lecture is named in honor of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Hugo L. Black.



EMILY BAZELON

is a staff writer at the *New York Times Magazine*, the Truman Capote Fellow for Creative Writing and Law at Yale Law School, and a co-host of Slate's *Political Gabfest*. She writes frequently about the intersection between law and pressing social issues, including free speech, the Supreme Court, and federal and state government. She is the author of two national bestsellers: *Charged*, about the power of prosecutors, and *Sticks and Stones*, about how to prevent bullying. She was previously a law clerk on the First Circuit Court of Appeals and is a graduate of Yale College and Yale Law School.



KHALILAH L. BROWN-DEAN

is the Rob Rosenthal Distinguished Professor of Civic Engagement and the inaugural Executive Director of the Allbritton Center for the Study of Public Life at Wesleyan University, bringing over two decades of innovative academic leadership, civic engagement, and national policy impact. Her work bridges the gap between research, grassroots action, and policymaking, shaping conversations and strategies that drive real-world change. She is also the host of *Disrupted*, a Connecticut Public Radio show and podcast. She is a graduate of the University of Virginia and The Ohio State University.